

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Minutes of the 206th Meeting
(Approved at the 207th Meeting)

Burpee Museum of Natural History
737 North Main Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

206-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 10:05 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Riddell, the meeting began.

Deborah Stone read the roll call.

Members present: George Covington, Donnie Dann, Ronald Flemal, Richard Keating, William McClain, Jill Riddell, and Lauren Rosenthal.

Members absent: Mare Payne and David Thomas.

Chair Riddell stated that the Governor has appointed the following Commissioners: George M. Covington (replacing Harry Drucker), Donald (Donnie) R. Dann (replacing Bruce Ross-Shannon), William E. McClain (replacing Jill Allread), and Dr. David L. Thomas (replacing John Schwegman).

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Jill Allread during her tenure as a Commissioner from 2000 to 2010. Jill served with distinction as Chair of the Commission from 2002 to 2004. She will be remembered for her clear sense of direction, her problem solving abilities, and her leadership in taking the Commission's message to the broader public. Her years of service with the Commission and her continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

(Resolution 2089)

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Harry Drucker during his tenure as a Commissioner from 2001 to 2010. Harry served with distinction as Chair of the Commission from 2004 to 2006. He will be remembered for his clear sense of purpose and passionate commitment to the mission of the Commission. His years of service with the Commission and his continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

(Resolution 2090)

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Bruce Ross-Shannon during his tenure as a Commissioner from 2001 to 2010. Bruce served with distinction as Chair of the Commission from 2006 to 2008. He will be remembered for his ability to direct the Commission in the matter of real estate law and his problem solving abilities. His years of service with the Commission and his continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

(Resolution 2091)

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of John Schwegman during his tenure as a Commissioner from 2000 to 2010. This founder of the natural areas movement brought to the Commission his years of experience in natural area conservation, providing knowledgeable science based direction to the Commission and staff. John's accomplishments will be an ongoing credit to the Commission for years to come. His service with the Commission will be warmly remembered and his continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission's programs are greatly appreciated.

(Resolution 2092)

Others present: Steven Byers, Judy Faulkner Dempsey, Bob Edgin, Randy Heidorn, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Debbie Reider, Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca, and Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Maggie Cole, Bob Lindsay, Don McFall, Liz Poe, Jody Shimp, Penny Snyder, and Bob Szafoni, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Anne Mankowski, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Roger Beadles, representing Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve; Jim Anderson, Tom Hahn, Rebecca Janssens, and Bonnie Thomson Carter, Lake County Forest Preserve District, representing MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve, Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, and the proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve; David Barkhausen and Drew Irwin, Village of Lake Bluff, and Larry McCotter, Lake Bluff Openlands Association, representing the proposed Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve; Judy Barnard, Barbara Fell, Jill Kennay, and Barbara Olson, Natural Land Institute (NLI), representing the proposed Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve; Mike Beeth, Lee Binkley, Don Kinney, Gene Nott, and Ron Speilmal, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), representing the proposed Canyon Camp addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve; John Boyt and John Fay, Lafarge Midwest, Inc., representing the proposed Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve and the proposed Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve; Ed Collins, Elizabeth Kessler, and Nancy Williamson, McHenry County Conservation District, representing the proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve and the proposed Detrana Fen addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve; Derik Morefield, City of Woodstock, representing the proposed Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie

Nature Preserve; Joe Roth, CorLands and INPC Consultant; George Merkel, Maurer-Stutz, Inc.; Jerry Dempsey, and Carol and Paul Soderholm.

206-2) Adoption of Agenda

Chair Riddell stated that Item 28 will be presented after Item 9, and Item 33 has been deferred.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Keating, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Chair Riddell thanked Brad Semel, John Nelson, Daniel Riggs, and Barbara Fell for the field trip at Harlem Hills Nature Preserve on September 20, 2010. She stated that she would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Bruce Ross-Shannon and his wife, Ruthie, for opening up their home for a reception for the Commission.

Chair Riddell reported that at the 205th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 4, 2010, at the Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center, Cypress, legal protection for seven tracts of land totaling 1,515.228 acres was approved by the Commission. Of these, three area totaling 176.583 acres is owned by private individuals or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without acquisition of the land by the State. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$1,101,000 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. Private lands protected without State acquisition at INPC's 205th Meeting were Stonewood Farm Land and Water Reserve in Jackson County; Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve in McHenry County; and the Freundschaft Weise buffer addition to Boloria Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has nine staff members in the field working with private land owners. There are now 350 dedicated nature preserves in 83 counties, totaling 46,413.156 acres and 159 land and water reserves in 65 counties, totaling 45,248.524 acres.

206-3) Approval of the Minutes of the 205th Meeting, May 4, 2010

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the Minutes of the 205th Meeting, May 4, 2010, be approved.

206-4) 2011 Proposed Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2011 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield

May 3, 2011 – The National Great Rivers Museum, East Alton

September 20, 2011 – Location to be determined, McHenry County

After some discussion, it was decided to choose another date for the first meeting of the 2011 schedule. The Commissioners will be notified of the rescheduled date, and the meeting schedule will be published in the State newspaper as required by the Open Meetings Act.

206-5) Election of Advisors and Consultants

Commissioner Flemal stated that he would like to acknowledge Bruce Ross-Shannon's contribution to the nomination committee. The Commission currently has nine advisors which include three statutory advisors. The statutory advisors are Marc Miller, Director of the IDNR, Dr. Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey, and Dr. Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum. The current advisors are Dr. Mike Demissie, Illinois State Water Survey, Janet S. Grimes, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Illinois State Geological Survey, Dr. John C. Marlin, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, Dr. Gary Miller, Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability, and Dr. William W. Shilts, Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability.

Commissioner Flemal stated that Ms. Grimes has requested that Robert Weichert, Superintendent of Historic Sites, take her place and serve as an advisor to the Commission.

He stated that Dr. John Marlin has retired, and Dr. Manohar R. Kulkarni has been named Director of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center. It has been recommended that Dr. Kulkarni take Dr. Marlin's place and serve as an advisor to the Commission.

Commissioner Flemal stated that the Illinois Archeological Survey has been formed, and Dr. Thomas E. Emerson has been named as the Interim Director. He would like to recommend that Dr. Emerson be added to the list of advisors for the Commission.

Mr. Heidorn explained the role of the advisors and consultants.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following be elected as advisors to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson; Dr. Manohar R. Kulkarni; Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Dr. Gary Miller, Dr. William W. Shilts, and Robert Weichert.

Commissioner Flemal stated that the Commission currently has nine consultants: Gerald Adelman, Marilyn Campbell, Tom Clay, Kenneth Fiske, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Valerie Spale, Leslee Spraggins, and John White.

He stated that he would like to suggest the addition of four individuals to the list of consultants: Jill Allread, Harry Drucker, Bruce Ross-Shannon, and John Schwegman.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following be elected as consultants to the Commission: Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Marilyn Campbell, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, Leslee Spraggins, and John White.

206-6) INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn presented the INPC staff report attached as Exhibit A.

He stated that at the 205th meeting the Commission adopted a White Paper that will increase the standards for documentation for the land and water reserve program. The new procedures have been implemented, and the land and water reserve proposals are much more complex than in the

past. He stated that he would like to recognize Mary Kay Solecki for her role in putting together and implementing this process.

Mr. Heidorn highlighted two ongoing threat issues. Staff have been working with the landowner of Bluff Springs Nature Preserve regarding restoration work with an adjacent landowner. Bluff City Materials (BCM) has stored road salt on their property, and there has been concern about potential contamination of the Nature Preserve. Discussions are ongoing with BCM to avoid contamination. Mr. Heidorn summarized the protection efforts at this site. He stated that BCM has been fairly cooperative in the process.

Mr. Heidorn stated there was a major crude oil spill in Will County due to a broken pipeline. The spill was up gradient from Romeoville Nature Preserve. Staff have been working with responders to contain the spill so the oil does not make its way to the Nature Preserve. Benzene was present in the water that made it to the Nature Preserve, however, it went to a non-detect level in the surface water within 24 hours. That site has a fractured limestone area, and staff is concerned that the groundwater could be a potential pathway for some of the contaminants to get into the Nature Preserve. Staff are working closely with the environmental management team to monitor the impacts. As of this date, everything has been non-detect in terms of the groundwater.

Mr. Heidorn stated that Judy Faulkner Dempsey has informed him that she will be retiring at the end of the year. Ms. Faulkner Dempsey has been associated with the Commission in various ways for over thirty years. She first worked for the Natural Land Institute. She then worked for TNC before coming to the INPC. She has been a founder of numerous practices used regarding landowner contact. He stated that the Commission will miss Ms. Faulkner Dempsey as a member of its staff.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize Judy Faulkner Dempsey for her service as a representative of the Commission in Southern Illinois for 32 years. Judy is a pioneer in the discipline of landowner contact for natural areas protection and stewardship. While first working with private landowners with the Natural Land Institute, then representing the Commission's interest through The Nature Conservancy, and finally as a Natural Resources Advanced Specialist with the Commission housed in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Judy has defined and refined the skills needed to assist landowners in making environmentally-sound land use decisions. Her passion for working with landowners to help protect their land for future generations of Illinoisans, while being sensitive to their needs as owners, is used as a model by today's practitioners. Her knowledge and experience with land protection tools, the Nature Preserves System, and the natural heritage of Illinois is extensive. During her time representing the Commission in Southern Illinois, the Nature Preserves System has grown from 64 nature preserves to 509 protected sites. The Illinois Nature Preserves mission appreciates Judy's legacy of lands protected during her tenure.

(Resolution 2093)

Chair Riddell stated that when she started in the field of conservation, Ms. Faulkner Dempsey was one of the first people she met. She stated that Ms. Faulkner Dempsey was an inspiration to her, and she will be missed by the Commission.

Judy Faulkner Dempsey thanked the Commission for the kind words. She stated that this has been her life, and she will miss working with everyone.

206-7) IDNR Staff Report

Don McFall presented the IDNR staff report attached as Exhibit B.

Mr. McFall updated the Commission on the progress of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update. Through contract management and some savings, the IDNR has been able to extend the work of the update through October, 2011. Approximately 10 sites in southeastern Illinois have come through the INAI update process and may qualify for the INAI and will go before the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee for approval to be placed on the INAI. Mr. McFall stated that the re-evaluation of all of the existing Category I INAI sites is ongoing and is on schedule.

Mr. McFall stated that the 2010 State Wildlife Grants (SWG), funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were awarded. Twelve projects, totaling approximately \$2,900,000, were recently awarded in Illinois. These projects will provide significant stewardship of natural areas and nature preserves. There will also be some land acquisition assistance that will result in additions to Hanover Bluff and Stemler Cave Woods state natural areas.

He stated that the Wildlife Preservation Fund check off on the Illinois State Income Tax generated approximately \$175,000 this year. It is the 27th year for the check off on the tax form. This money will be funding 34 projects that link well to the natural area and nature preserve programs.

The effort continues to help the US Forest Service understand the importance of its role in the protection of natural areas at the Shawnee National Forest. The IDNR, the INPC, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been partnering with the Forest Service to get out more educational materials on natural areas and high quality streams within the Shawnee National Forest. A strike team has been developed with those partners to provide on-the-ground management on the natural areas of the Shawnee National Forest.

206-8) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Anne Mankowski presented the ESPB report attached as Exhibit C.

Ms. Mankowski stated that the ESPB now has one new Board member, Laurel Ross. Ms. Ross is from the Field Museum in Chicago, and she replaced Marilyn Campbell.

Ms. Mankowski stated that the ESPB received a Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget. The Board has not had a budget since 2001. The Board's budget will be handled as a line item in the IDNR budget. She stated that it was a modest budget which will be used to fund the position of the Executive Director, and the Board has been working with the IDNR and Central Management Services (CMS) to fill that position.

The next meeting of the ESPB will be held at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie on November 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Riddell stated that the registration agreements for today's land and water reserve presentations are signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

206-9) Hardin Co. – Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration
(Actually presented after Item 12)

Judy Faulkner Dempsey presented a proposal on behalf of Lafarge Midwest, Inc. to register 77.215 acres as Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve. The site is a high-quality, grade A and B limestone glade community and dry upland forest/limestone glade complex which protects a portion of the INAI site known as Barker Bluff (#33). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this rare community type. There is one state-threatened species and three state-endangered species occurring at this natural area, and the community itself is rare. The proposed Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Natural Division. This site is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. Preservation of this site will address several action steps in the Forests Campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). It will target increased acreages of open woodlands and barrens and will assist private forest management in improving the latter categories. It will also assist with the Invasive Species Campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species. This site is important because it provides habitat for Illinois species in greatest need of conservation as identified in the IWAP.

Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that the registration agreement will be in effect for five years with a provision for automatic renewal. The landowner is in the process of doing a five year mining operations plan. When this operations plan is presented to the IDNR's Office of Mines and Minerals, they would like to have a preservation component which would be to dedicate the site as an Illinois nature preserve. Lafarge Midwest, Inc. is demonstrating its commitment through this five year land and water reserve agreement to protect this area and begin cooperative management with the IDNR and the INPC. Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that she first started working with Lafarge approximately 20 years ago. As time went on, she talked with many people within the organization. Lafarge now wants to make a commitment that in five years the property would be upgraded to a nature preserve.

Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that the site will not be open to the public without permission of the landowner. The allowable uses would be nature observation, hiking, and photography.

Commissioner McClain stated that preserving this site was important because of the rare plants found there.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Lafarge Barker Bluff in Hardin County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2094)

- 206-10) Jo Daviess Co. – Canyon Camp Addition to Apple River Land and Water Reserve, Registration
(Actually presented after Item 8)

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the Blackhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to permanently register 85.1 acres as the Canyon Camp addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division. The proposed Canyon Camp addition will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Land and Water Reserve (181.9-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres) owned by the IDNR. It would also protect dry and wet cliff communities found along Coon Creek, as well as a known population of the state-threatened plant *sullivantia* (*Sullivantia sullivantii*). Much of the 85.1 acres are rugged mesic and dry-mesic upland forest with two small pockets of pine plantation. The wide ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. The INAI identified exceptional areas of dry prairie, cliff communities, and dolomite exposures (#1069). Currently, nine state-endangered and four state-threatened plants are known to occur at Apple River Canyon. If approved, the 85.1-acre Canyon Camp addition will remain undeveloped and will be managed and used in a manner consistent with preserving the natural and scenic qualities of the site. The BSA uses the proposed addition for hiking, primitive camping, and nature study in a wilderness setting as part of the programs offered at its Canyon Camp. Such outdoor recreational activities are consistent with the registration goals of the site to help protect Apple River Canyon and its unique natural features, as well as protecting those unique natural features found on-site.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Canyon Camp addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve in Jo Daviess County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2095)

- 206-11) Jo Daviess Co. – Wiley Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Registration

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the NLI to permanently register 34.441 acres as the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. The proposed Wiley addition, located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division, will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Land and Water Reserve (181.9-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres) owned by the IDNR. The

wide ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. Currently, nine state-endangered and four state-threatened plant species are known to occur at Apple River Canyon. The proposed Wiley addition is located adjacent to a portion of the INAI boundary (#1069) on the west side of Apple River Canyon. The proposed addition consists of 17.2 acres of mesic upland forest and 17.2 acres of open pastureland. The site is ideally suited as buffer to protect the unique cliff communities and other significant ecological and geological features found within Apple River Canyon. The registration of the Wiley addition helps support goals of the IWAP in the Streams, Forests, and Farmland and Prairies campaigns, as well as protecting existing habitat for state listed plants and animals. The proposed addition is within the Apple River Conservation Opportunity Area. If approved, the Wiley addition will be transferred to the Blackhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The BSA plan to use the Wiley addition for passive outdoor recreational activities associated with programs offered at their adjoining Canyon Camp. The 17.2-acre pasture will be used for cattle grazing for up to three years. Such activities, as well as management activities, will be consistent with the registration of the site to help protect the Apple River Canyon and its unique natural features. The Wiley addition offers excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation, nature study, and ecological restorations. As part of this registration proposal, the NLI proposes to register 34.4 acres as the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon, which upon approval, will be transferred to the BSA.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve in Jo Daviess County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2096)

Chair Riddell stated that this was an example of the extraordinary cooperation among agencies with the BSA, the INPC, the NLI, and the Wiley family. She felt this was a great example of the kind of work that can get done. She wanted to acknowledge the conservation leadership that has come from the NLI for so many years.

Ron Spielman, Executive Board member of the BSA, stated that the decision to protect this site started in the fall of 2004. He stated that he agreed with Chair Riddell's comments on the importance of collaboration. The BSA has also been working with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, and they have assisted the BSA with camp programming. The two parcels are located in Thompson Township in Jo Daviess County and were owned before the Civil War by Christopher Columbus Thompson. Mr. Thompson was a progressive settler who had the first saw mill in the area with a three-story grist mill on that property. He used the Apple River for his saw mill. He also had the first school and the first post office. Mr. Spielman stated that 1936 was important for both of the parcels because the Boy Scouts had been pushed out of what is now known as Apple River Canyon State Park. BSA founders walked the River to find a better place to camp. The founders walked up Coon Creek, and they found this property. After negotiating with the landowner, Canyon Camp was purchased. That same year, the Wiley family arrived and saw a great potential for the property. The two parcels were brought back together

today for the education and the benefit of future generations. He thanked the Commission for protecting these parcels.

Judy Barnard, Board President of the NLI, stated the NLI would like to thank the Boy Scouts for the work that they did on this project and for their willingness to conserve their land. She also wanted to thank the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and their former staff members Rick Lawrence and Rebecca Olson for their hard work on this project. Ms. Barnard stated that the NLI goes west to the Mississippi River and down to Rock Island. It has been its goal for many years to conserve land in this beautiful part of the State. She stated that out of those efforts, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation came to be, and it is now successfully conserving land in that area. The NLI worked with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation on several projects, and the groups have a good future working together.

206-12) Lake Co. – Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Village of Lake Bluff and Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA) to register Skokie River Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve. The proposed Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve is a 24.2-acre mosaic of grade C sedge meadow, wet prairie, wet-mesic prairie, and mesic prairie located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. This site meets the criteria required for registration as an Illinois land and water reserve under the provision of degraded but restorable prairie of at least 20 acres in size or equivalent to grade C under the INAI grading criteria. Skokie River Prairie is owned in part by the Village of Lake Bluff (105 lots totaling 23.7 acres) and LBOLA (two lots totaling 0.5 acres) and is located within a matrix of platted but unbuilt roads, and six lots that remain in private ownership. The platted roads and six lots are not included in the registration proposal. The prairies at this site are considered “imperiled globally” (G-2) by TNC and are considered the first (or highest) tier for conservation in the Chicago region. These prairies have been intensively managed by the LBOLA under the terms of an agreement with the Village of Lake Bluff. Protection and stewardship of the Skokie River Prairie supports several action steps identified in the Farmland and Prairies Campaign and Wetlands Campaign sections of the IWAP and provides habitat for three bird species identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

Mr. Byers stated that the landowners reserve the right to maintain the current trail system as outlined in the proposal. Other reserved rights include the right to provide for all recreational uses commonly attributed to a land and water reserve, continue adaptive management strategies outlined in the proposal, and to monitor surface hydrology and groundwater.

Mr. Byers stated that David Barkhausen, Trustee with the Village of Lake Bluff, Drew Irwin, Village Manager, and Larry McCotter, President of the LBOLA, have been very supportive of this project.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Skokie River Prairie in Lake County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2097)

Larry McCotter thanked the Commission for approving the registration of Skokie River Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve. He stated that the LBOLA was an all volunteer group, and this has been a labor of love that began in 1994. Since this was an urbanized area, some people did not want such a beautiful piece of property in their back yard. The Village Board unanimously passed the approval for the registration, and the people who were once opposed are now happy with the decision. He acknowledged the efforts of the volunteers, the Trustees of the Village of Lake Bluff, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD). He also thanked Steve Byers for his tireless efforts to make this project happen.

Commissioner Covington stated he has been a Lake Bluff resident for 30 years. He stated that Mr. McCotter has devoted countless hours to the restoration and protection of this site and persuaded the Village to cooperate with the registration of this property. He also wanted to thank the Village of Lake Bluff. He stated that Mr. McCotter and his predecessor, Carolyn Getz, fought to preserve this property for many years.

Chair Riddell stated that it was an honor for the Commission to play a part in helping a non-profit organization.

206-13) Grundy Co. – Hildy Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 28)

Kim Roman presented a proposal on behalf of the Hildy family for preliminary approval for dedication of their 8.5 acres of wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow as an Illinois nature preserve. Hildy Prairie is comprised of two distinct units which are separated by a private drive. The 5.5-acre north unit is owned by Clyde and Mary Ellen Hildy. The 3-acre south unit is owned by Wallace and Barbara Hildy. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Hildy Prairie is included on the INAI (#1360) because it provides habitat for the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and a state-endangered and federally-threatened flower. The prairie supports at least one wildlife species in greatest need of conservation, the sphinx moth (*Sphinx eremtis*). Dedication of Hildy Prairie as a nature preserve promotes numerous action steps outlined in the IWAP. The Hildy family enrolled the prairie in the INPC's Natural Heritage Landmark program in 1981 and has been actively managing the site since that time. The Hildys wish to permanently protect their prairie and promote the management of its unique character by dedicating it as a nature preserve.

Ms. Roman stated that allowable uses for this site would be hiking, nature observation, and photography with express permission from the landowners. The landowners also reserve the right to maintain all underground utility lines traversing the proposed nature preserve and to install additional utility lines for the use of the two residential homes on site under the conditions outlined in the proposal. The private drive will be restricted to 20 feet in width. The landowners have the right to maintain and improve that drive as needed. The use of road salt has been

prohibited. The landowners reserve the right to have mowed trails. The possibility for having a buried cable for the installation of a satellite dish was retained by the landowners. The research and monitoring of the site that has occurred over the last 30 years will likely continue with the activities permitted through the INPC.

Commissioner McClain stated that it was encouraging to see a site like this with robust populations of rare plants.

Ms. Roman stated that this site is within ten miles of Goose Lake Prairie, and she is working with another landowner to see if another site can be brought into the INPC system.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Hildy Prairie in Grundy County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2098)

Chair Riddell asked that Ms. Roman convey the thanks of the Commission to the Hildy family.

206-14) Jackson Co. – Gene Korando Addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication

Judy Faulkner Dempsey presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for preliminary approval for dedication of 62.39 acres of the Lovets Pond INAI site (#1175) as the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve. The addition is located in the Southern Section of the Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands Natural Division. Lovets Pond is a 152-acre wetland ecosystem located 15 miles east of Murphysboro. The site is characterized by six natural communities, including pond, shrub swamp, swamp, marsh, floodplain forest, and successional field. The communities provide habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms and 328 taxa of vascular flora. The natural character of Lovets Pond is similar to the earliest known presettlement description of the land. The pond, shrub swamp, swamp, and marsh are of high natural quality and are rare in the natural division. Only two other significant natural ponds remain in this natural division. The proposed Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve is within the Larue-Pine Hills-Western Shawnee Trail of Tears Conservation Opportunity Area. The protection of Lovets Pond Nature Preserve supports action steps identified for the IWAP Wetlands Campaign to improve wetland habitat and coordinate wetland goals.

Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that the farm lanes that lead down to the pond are privately owned so there is no legal access for the public. There is legal access for management only. Over the years, the open water has reduced in size. If it is a dry year, there is only a small area of water in the middle.

Commissioner Flemal stated that the historical maps show the pond being two miles long. It is now less than one-third of the mile on the current map. He asked how much attention this site would need to maintain open water.

Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that part of that was because drainage has occurred, and the farms, in earlier years, drained as much as they could. The pond has been silting in slowly. If a plan could be developed and implemented, it would help.

Commissioner Dann asked if marsh birds use this habitat for nesting.

Ms. Faulkner Dempsey stated that more field work needs to be done to identify the species that are present at that site. The only other large wetland in this general area is Clear Creek Swamp, but it is not very similar to this site.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve in Jackson County as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2099)

206-15) Kankakee Co. – Addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 19)

Kim Roman presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for preliminary approval for dedication of 97 acres, comprised of three tracts, as additions to the 85-acre Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and its proposed additions are located within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, owned by TNC, is part of the larger Pembroke Savanna INAI site (#975) due to its high-quality sand savanna communities. The proposed addition is also included in this INAI site, and supports dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, and an old agricultural field reverting to wet-mesic sand prairie. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed addition lie within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area. The Nature Preserve provides habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) and at least three other species in greatest need of conservation: red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), and a reptile. Dedication of the proposed addition will protect additional acreage of Pembroke Savanna INAI site, habitat for species in greatest need of conservation, and help complete a solid preserve design for this Nature Preserve. If approved, the total acreage protected within the Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve boundaries will be 182 acres.

Ms. Roman discussed the allowable uses which were outlined in the proposal. There is an existing gravel drive and concrete trailer pad within the 23.2-acre addition, and TNC reserves the right to create formal access and parking for visitor use. Ms. Roman stated that there is an excavated pond on the site that TNC may choose to naturalize through an approved management plan.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried, with Dann abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of an addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve in Kankakee County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2100)

206-16) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 14)

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for preliminary approval for dedication of 41.5 acres as a buffer addition to the 449.5-acre MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve. MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve (INAI #1003) is the largest block of unbroken forest in Lake County and consists of 446 acres owned by the LCFPD and a 3.5-acre buffer addition owned by Robert and Jan Halkovich. With the proposed buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 491.0 acres. MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic upland forest and a cultural community undergoing restoration since 1985 and supports populations of the state-listed pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*) and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of this 41.5-acre proposed buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The large forested block, which includes the proposed buffer addition, supports 17 birds, one amphibian, and two mammals identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

Mr. Byers stated that the LCFPD reserves the right to maintain the trail system and maintain drainage outlets along the trail system within the proposed addition. The LCFPD also reserves the right to conduct some ecological restoration of the ditch stream channel that drains a small watershed to the east of St. Mary's Road.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve in Lake County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2101)

206-17) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for preliminary approval for dedication of 115.1 acres as a buffer addition to the 602.95-acre Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve. Middlefork Savanna (INAI # 1245) is owned in part by the LCFPD (499.0 acres), Lake Forest Open Lands Association (82.8 acres), Frank Farwell (8.162 acres), the Lillard trust

(12.692 acres), and the City of Lake Forest (0.3 acres). With the proposed 115.1-acre buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 718.05 acres. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D wet prairie, grade C/D sedge meadow and a cultural community. Although no state-listed plants are currently known from the proposed buffer addition, it does provide suitable breeding habitat for the five state-listed animal species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Wilson's phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*), king rail (*Rallus elegans*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 115.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forest, Wetlands, and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 16 birds, seven insects, two fish, one mammal, one reptile, and one amphibian identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

Mr. Byers discussed the reserved rights requested by the landowner which were outlined in the proposal. The reserves rights include the right to pursue adaptive management strategies, develop and implement a plan to restore some of the flow characteristics of the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River by installing wing dams to deflect the energy of moving water, install riffles, and grade the banks of the River to facilitate plantings and management of deep-rooted prairie plants, and to install groundwater wells and other monitoring devices in the proposed addition to monitor both surface and groundwater with the permission of the INPC, to maintain the multi-use trail, and maintain or install trail amenities that either exist or are determined to be necessary by LCFPD staff with the approval of the INPC.

Commissioner Dann stated that all sites within INPC programs were important, but the sites that were in the middle of urbanized areas were especially valuable.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve in Lake County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2102)

206-18) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for preliminary approval for dedication of 604.1 acres as a buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition would increase the size of Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve from 433.1 acres to 1037.2 acres, occupying most of the 1187.4-acre Wadsworth Prairie Forest Preserve. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI #0649) and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D freshwater marsh, grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet, wet-mesic, and mesic prairie, grade C/D graminoid

fen and a cultural community undergoing restoration for 25 years. Although the proposed buffer addition does not currently support any state-listed plants, both LCFPD and INPC staff believe the proposed buffer addition does provide suitable habitat for a federally-listed and state-endangered plant found in the Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition does provide suitable breeding habitat for four state-listed species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 604.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Wetlands and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 20 birds, two reptiles, and one insect identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Upper Des Plaines River Conservation Opportunity Area.

Mr. Byers discussed the reserved rights requested by the landowner which were outlined in the proposal. The reserved rights include the right to pursue adaptive management strategies, develop and implement a plan to remove field drain tiles and artificial drainage conveyances, install groundwater wells and other monitoring devices in the proposed addition to monitor both surface and groundwater with the permission of the INPC, extensive monitoring and surveys of the site with permission of the INPC, and the right to maintain the multi-use trail, realign the trail as may be required because of issues associated with flooding and hydrology or to allow for local access, maintain drainage outlets traversed by the trail, and maintain or install trail amenities that either exist or are determined to be necessary by LCFPD staff with the approval of the INPC.

Mr. Byers stated that Illinois Route 41 poses challenges to this site because of road salt and contaminants. Flooding of the Upper Des Plaines River has occurred once every four years on average. In the past, studies have recommended large stormwater retention basins in the floodplain of the Des Plaines River. He stated that he would recommend that Commission staff work proactively with the LCFPD to recommend non structural alternatives to address flooding by acquisition of properties in the floodplain that are prone to flooding and flood proofing structures. Mr. Byers also recommended that the LCFPD and the Commission develop a contingency plan to provide access for the rail services in the event of a spill or a derailment.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2103)

206-19) Lake Co. – Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for preliminary approval for dedication of 138 acres of the Captain Daniel Wright Forest Preserve as Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve is located within the Morainel

Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve encompasses the Elm Road Woods INAI site (# 1555). The 84-acre proposed nature preserve includes grade B/C dry-mesic upland forest and grade B/C northern flatwoods. The 54-acre nature preserve buffer includes a cultural community undergoing restoration. Ten acres of high-quality northern flatwoods identified at this site represent more than a 10% increase in the amount of this community known from the entire State and is considered the first (or highest) tier for conservation in the Chicago region. Northern flatwoods are also recognized by TNC as “imperiled globally” (G-2). To date, 321 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve and include the state-listed brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*), pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*), pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*), marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of Elm Road Woods is consistent with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve also provides habitat for five birds, two amphibians, and three insects identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

Mr. Byers discussed the reserved rights requested by the landowner which were outlined in the proposal. The reserves rights include the right to continue adaptive management strategies, to route and construct a hiking/bike trail through the proposed nature preserve buffer with associated trail amenities with the approval of the INPC, and to maintain drainage outlets located along Elm Road.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Elm Road Woods in Lake County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2104)

Bonnie Thompson Carter, President of the LCFPD, stated that it was an honor to come before the Commission. She thanked Mr. Byers for working with Jim Anderson to bring these projects to the Commission. She stated that Lake County has the most threatened or endangered species in the State of Illinois, and the LCFPD adopted a policy to direct staff to look at all of its land to see which tracts needed to be dedicated. As a result of this directive, the hours of one staff person had to be increased so the project could be completed. She stated that the LCFPD wants to make sure that the most valuable land is protected and put future Board members in a position where they do not have to deal with the pressure that will come with another development. She stated that the LCFPD will be bringing more sites to the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Covington commended the LCFPD Board and its staff for the farsighted action they have taken by dedicating so much of their land. The confidence that the voters of Lake County have in the LCFPD system has been shown by the fact that they have approved the last few bond referendums by a two to one margin.

Chair Riddell stated that a lot of credit goes to the LCFPD for its environmental education efforts which creates an educated populist and serves as a vote for conservation in Lake County. She stated that it is important to have these natural areas close to where people live.

A lunch break was taken from 12:55 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

206-20) McHenry Co. – Boger Bog Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 29)

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) for preliminary approval for dedication of approximately 36.9 acres of land to be known as Boger Bog Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located adjacent to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve within the Village of Bull Valley and in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Boger Bog is part of a larger natural spring-fed wetland covering approximately 42.7 acres. This larger site is recognized on the INAI (#1265) and the McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory (#NUN10). Together, the proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve and the existing Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve will afford legal protection to nearly all of the inventoried natural area. Boger Bog is named in memory of Frederick C. Boger who owned the land from 1955 until his death in 2000. Mr. Boger stipulated that the site be named “Boger Bog.” However, the site does not actually contain a bog and is best described as having a graminoid fen and sedge meadow wetland. The proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve also consists of oak woodlands and savannas on uplands surrounding the fen. The site has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. One state-threatened plant, spike rush (*Eliocharis rostellata*), is also known to occur within the proposed nature preserve.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Boger Bog in McHenry County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2105)

206-21) McHenry Co. – Detrana Fen Buffer Addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for preliminary approval for dedication of 56.2 acres as a buffer addition to the 113.84-acre Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve. The Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition lie within the Detrana Fen INAI site (# 1557) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade B/C graminoid fen and calcareous seep, grade C sedge meadow, freshwater marsh, spring run, and grade C dry-mesic upland forest. To date, 102 plant species have been recorded from the proposed buffer addition and include the state-endangered green-fruited burreed (*Sparganium emersum*) and state-threatened slender bog arrow grass (*Triglochin palustris*), false asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), and beaked spike rush (*Eleocharis rostellata*).

Extensive wildlife surveys have been conducted by the MCCD and include the following species identified by IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation: two-spotted skipper (*Euphyes bimacula*), blackchin shiner, central mudminnow (*Lepomis macrochirus*), lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Protection and stewardship of the proposed buffer addition support an action step of the IWAP's Wetlands Campaign. Both the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition are located within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Conservation Opportunity Area. Dedication of the proposed buffer addition will increase the size of Fel-Pro Triple R Fen from 113.84 acres to 170.04 acres.

Mr. Byers stated that the MCCD is planning to route and construct a trail extending from Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve to the proposed addition. The trail may be six feet wide and approximately four tenths of a mile with trail amenities such as kiosks, signage, and benches.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of the Detrana Fen buffer addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2106)

Elizabeth Kessler, MCCD, thanked the Commission for acknowledging and conferring preliminary approval on two properties owned by the MCCD. She also thanked Steven Byers and John Nelson for their work. The MCCD is committed to bring forth proposals each year and will continue to have more areas protected. Ms. Kessler stated that she also wanted to report that the MCCD has been working cooperatively on the proposed HUM Railroad Prairie project. The MCCD is currently working with the County, the local municipalities of the Village of Huntley, and the City of Marengo so there will be a joint effort to come back with a joint application for the dedication of the HUM Railroad Prairie site.

Nancy Williamson, MCCD, stated that this would not have happened without partners like TNC, Openlands, and a donation from the private sector. She stated that she felt that, among the forest preserves and the conservation districts in the northeastern Illinois area, there was a very great understanding of the importance of working with the INPC.

Chair Riddell stated that the Commission was honored to be able to play a role where it can provide an additional layer of protection to the land owned by the MCCD.

206-22) McHenry Co. –Sweetwater Creek Addition and Buffer to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of Robert and Maggie Bailey for preliminary approval for dedication of approximately 29 acres of land to be known as the Sweetwater Creek addition (24 acres) and buffer (5 acres) to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve addition and buffer consists of a large, high-quality relict sedge meadow with

elements of wet prairie and fen wetland indicator plant species. The proposed addition and buffer is within the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site and is located within a ground-watershed that has been designated a Class III Special Resource Groundwater by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Pollution Control Board. The Boone Creek Fen and Seep is a 465-acre INAI site (#1015) representing one of the finest examples of graminoid fen and calcareous seep wetlands within the State. Dedication will also help protect a known population of a state-threatened flower. The sedge meadow wetlands offer an excellent opportunity to further restore the wetland system that occurs on the valley floor along Boone Creek. The relatively intact groundwater system that sustains the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site is a key element to the successful restoration of the entire site. This dedication proposal is consistent with the long-term goal to protect as much of the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site as possible through the formation of a macro-preserve of privately owned lands. If approved, Maggie and Robert Bailey would become the seventh landowner to enroll land into this macro-preserve complex. If approved, the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer will increase the acreage of legally protected lands to 133.1 acres.

Mr. Nelson stated that there was a trail along the western edge of the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer, and horseback riding would be an allowable use through the this area. The landowners have allowed this use for a number of years, and they would like to continue that.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2107)

Chair Riddell asked that Mr. Nelson extend the thanks of the Commission to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey.

206-23) Randolph Co. – Mayor Larry Durbin Addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman presented a proposal on behalf of J. W. Gonterman for preliminary approval for dedication of the 10-acre Mayor Larry Durbin addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve. This site is in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain and the town of Prairie du Rocher and is adjacent to the 15-acre Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is adjacent to the INAI site boundary (INAI #99) and is comprised entirely of grade C dry-mesic upland forest. The dedication of the addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The proposed addition is located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division, and is within the Bluff Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area. The addition is named after longtime Prairie du Rocher Mayor, Larry Durbin, who passed away a few years ago.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of the Mayor Larry Durbin addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 23 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2108)

206-24) Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for final approval for dedication of 4.344 acres, consisting of 32 lots totaling 2.827 acres and an additional 1.517 acres of portions of platted, but unbuilt streets and alleys that can now be vacated, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. These properties were acquired by TNC via a tax deed-scavenger sale (dated September 23, 2009) and subject to a Circuit Court of Cook County order (dated September 24, 2009) directing issuance of said tax deed. An Agreed Order issued by the Circuit Court of Cook County (dated May 18, 2010) dismissed a motion by the City of Markham to vacate the order issuing the tax deed. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and grade D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 192.94 to 197.284 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157th Street and 159th Street. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205th Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2071).

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Keating, and carried, with Dann abstaining, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 24 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2109)

Chair Riddell thanked TNC and the NLI for the efforts to protect this area.

206-25) Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for final approval for dedication of 3.655 acres of portions of platted, but unbuilt streets and alleys that can now be vacated, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and grade D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 197.284 to 200.939 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157th Street and 159th Street. The Commission granted preliminary approval for adjacent properties at its 205th Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2071).

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Flemal, and carried, with Dann abstaining, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 25 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

NOTE: Due to a discovery by the landowner that there was a mistake in the legal description, this item was deferred after the meeting. The landowner will bring this back to the Commission for consideration of final approval for dedication at the 207th Meeting on February 9, 2011.

206-26) Edwards Co. – Buffer Addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, Dedication

Bob Edgin presented a proposal on behalf of Roger and Vivian Beadles for final approval for dedication of 15 acres as a second buffer addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, increasing the size of the Nature Preserve from 10 to 25 acres. The site is located within the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division and is recognized by the INAI (#1547) as a Category I site for grade B dry-mesic barrens and has populations of a state-endangered plant and the state-threatened savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*). The five-acre Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication by the INPC at its 166th meeting in February, 2000 (Resolution #1523). A 4.5-acre buffer addition was granted final approval for dedication at the 174th meeting of the INPC in March, 2002 (Resolution #1635). The proposed second buffer addition adjoins the west boundary of the Nature Preserve and the north boundary of the first buffer addition. The proposed buffer addition is former crop fields that are being restored to prairie and open

woodland communities. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205th Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2072).

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the buffer addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve in Edwards County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 26 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2110)

Chair Riddell thanked Mr. Beadles on behalf of the Commission and future generations. She stated that it was an incredibly generous act, and it makes a big difference in conservation.

206-27) Hancock Co. – Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

Angella Moorehouse presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for final approval for dedication of the entire 37-acre Geissler Savanna Land and Water Reserve as Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve in honor of historic resident botanist and physician, Dr. Samuel Barnum Mead, for whom Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) and Mead's sedge are named. The nine-acre high-quality savanna remnant is proposed for nature preserve dedication and the remaining 28 acres of restored prairie and successional field are proposed for dedication as nature preserve buffer. The site is located within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. The site is recognized by the INAI as Category I containing nine acres of grade B/C dry and dry-mesic savanna and as a Category II for supporting four state-listed plant species, savanna blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*), Mead's milkweed, Virginia bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*), and a rare plant. The site also provides habitat for at least six species in greatest need of conservation as identified by the IWAP. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205th Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2073).

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna in Hancock County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 27 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2111)

206-28) Hardin Co. – Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 9)

Judy Faulkner Dempsey presented a proposal on behalf of Lafarge North Midwest, Inc., for final dedication of the 42-acre Lafarge Limestone Glade as an Illinois nature preserve. This site is a high-quality grade A and B limestone glade community. The site protects the western part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants

occurs in this rare community type. The Lafarge Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Lafarge Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. Preservation of Lafarge Limestone Glade will address several actions steps in the Forests Campaign of the IWAP by conserving an INAI site, and assisting with the Invasive Species Campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 200th Meeting in October, 2008 (Resolution 2011).

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Lafarge Limestone Glade in Hardin County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 28 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2112)

John Boyt, Plant Manager for Lafarge Midwest, stated that he was happy to be able to complete this process before Ms. Faulkner Dempsey retired. He stated that Lafarge Midwest donates to causes like this, and he thanked the Commission for the opportunity to protect this site.

John Fay, Land Manager for Lafarge West US Region, stated that Lafarge is very much concerned about the environment, and it focuses on that. He stated that he was the fourth land manager that Ms. Faulkner Dempsey has worked with in the last five years due to reorganization within the company. He stated that he would like to commend her for her dedication and persistence to finalize the dedication.

Chair Riddell stated that the Commission was honored to work with Lafarge to save this land for future generations. She thanked Mr. Boyt and Mr. Fay for their efforts.

206-29) Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 15)

Kim Roman presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for final approval for dedication of a 10-acre tract as an addition to the 68-acre Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is located within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is owned by TNC and was formally dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory in 2008. The Nature Preserve is part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#0638). Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), clustered sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus schneideri*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola*

primulifolia), regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), and a rare plant. The proposed addition is also part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site, and it supports at least two state-listed plants: clustered sedge and old plainsman. It lies within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and provides habitat for several animal species in greatest need of conservation. This addition would provide additional habitat for many species of conservation concern, buffer high-quality natural communities, and allow the Nature Preserve to be managed in a way to maintain its unique natural character. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205th Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2075).

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Keating, and carried, with Dann abstaining, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve in Kankakee County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 29 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2113)

Fran Harty, TNC, thanked the Commission for its part in protecting the site in perpetuity.

Chair Riddell stated that TNC was an important partner, and she thanked Mr. Harty for his efforts.

206-30) McHenry Co. – Westwood Park Addition and Buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually Presented after Item 27)

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the City of Woodstock for final approval for dedication of approximately 63.6 acres of land to be known as the Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve (17.1-acre addition and 46.5-acre buffer addition). The nature preserve and the proposed addition and buffer are located along the western boundary of the City of Woodstock in the Morainal Section of the Northeast Morainal Natural Division. Both sites are part of a larger natural wetland complex covering approximately 260 acres and consisting of a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas. The area has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. The proposed Westwood Park addition is recognized on the INAI (#1568) as part of a wetland complex containing a high-quality grade B, wet-mesic prairie. The proposed Westwood Park buffer consists of several relict natural communities that offer good restoration opportunities and are suitable for passive public use. The proposed addition lies within the Crowsfoot Marsh/Coon Creek/Kishwaukee River Conservation Opportunity Area. It also supports action steps for several campaigns identified in the IWAP and provides habitat for several birds in greatest need of conservation. The dedication of the proposed Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will help protect a relict natural community included on the INAI and at least one state-listed animal. Restoration and management of this natural area will benefit area sensitive grassland dependent birds. If approved, the lands protected at Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will increase from 40.3 acres to 103.9 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205th Meeting

in May, 2010 (Resolution 2076).

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 30 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2114)

Derik Morefield, City of Woodstock, stated that he commended the foresight of the Commission to protect these sites, along with the foresight of the individuals and the organizations that bring these projects forward. He thanked the Commission for its consideration of the Woodstock project and for its hard work and dedication.

Chair Riddell thanked the City of Woodstock for bringing this site before the Commission.

206-31) Jasper Co. – Correction of Error in Legal Description in the Dedication Agreement for Robert Ridgeway Grasslands Nature Preserve

Randy Heidorn stated that the 25.86-acre Robert Ridgeway Grasslands Nature Preserve was given final approval for dedication at the 175th meeting of the INPC (Resolution 1653) on May 7, 2002, and the dedication document was recorded in Jasper County on July 11, 2002. The IDNR recently identified an error in the legal description. The corrected legal description will need to be approved by the Commission, attached to the original dedication document, and re-recorded.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the correction in the legal description, due to a scrivener's error, for the Robert Ridgeway Grasslands Nature Preserve in Jasper County, as presented under Item 31 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting. The document will be re-recorded with the Jasper County Recorder's Office.

(Resolution 2115)

206-32) Tazewell Co. – Dirksen-McNaughton Woods Land and Water Reserve Bridge Replacement

George Merkel gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the project. The City of Pekin is seeking written concurrence to proceed with the Federal Highway Administration's process for making a *de minimus* finding regarding plans to replace the Sheridan Road bridge/culvert structure at Lick Creek within a portion of the Dirksen-McNaughton Woods Land and Water Reserve (INAI #1741), an 828-acre site owned by the Pekin Park District. Dirksen-McNaughton Woods was registered as a land and water reserve to protect nearly 700 acres of second-growth forest that has supported a breeding bird community which includes 17 species sensitive to the

effects of forest fragmentation. The 25.3-foot-wide bridge across Lick Creek must be replaced due to its age and deterioration. The new bridge will be 38 feet wide, including a 5-foot-wide sidewalk, which will allow hikers to avoid vehicles in the roadway. The present bridge does not have a sidewalk. The roadway right-of-way is by prescriptive use, and was excluded from the registered area. In order to replace the bridge, approximately 0.06 acres outside of the current prescriptive-use footprint will be impacted, including three trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height and two sand bars (0.05 acres) in the Creek, which were determined by the Illinois Natural History Survey to be wetlands of low natural quality. None of the forest along Sheridan Road may be considered high quality. Any desirable trees that may have to be removed and the impacted wetlands will be mitigated. This project will not result in additional permanent forest fragmentation, although the area within the construction footprint will certainly be disturbed. Control measures will be taken to protect Lick Creek from erosion and sedimentation during construction. Predicted changes to stream hydrology due to the new bridge/culvert structure have been further examined by consultants, and recommendations were provided to the INPC. Other issues identified by Commissioners and INPC Consultants at the 204th meeting have been addressed. Following construction, the City of Pekin will seek a permanent easement on the road right-of-way, the revised boundaries of which will be determined by a professional survey, for roadway maintenance. This project will enhance public safety, but will require encroachment into the Land and Water Reserve. Written concurrence, if conferred, is necessary for *de minimus* documentation to be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. A *de minimus* finding will allow Maurer-Stutz, Inc. to proceed to final design phase, at which time INPC staff will be provided specifications for review and approval.

Mr. Merkel stated that once the design phase has been completed, they will submit the plan for the amount of rip-rap to be placed under the structure and the erosion control to preserve the Creek and surrounding land to the Commission for its approval prior to bidding the project. The normal lifespan for the type of arch span bridge being proposed is approximately 50 years which is about the same lifespan as the current bridge which is approximately 50 years old.

Jenny Skufca provided the staff opinion to the Commissioners, and she gave an overview of the staff opinion. She stated that INPC staff recommended written approval for the City of Pekin to proceed with the Federal Highway Administration's process for making a *de minimus* impact finding. Further, staff recommended that the Commission make a finding that this proposed project is "in the public interest" and proceed subject to the review and approval of INPC staff of all final design plans and a similar finding by the Director of the IDNR.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that Mr. Merkel gave a thorough presentation regarding this project at a previous meeting. She stated that it was clear that there was a need to do something for this bridge, and she felt that the City of Pekin and the engineers have worked diligently to come up with the proposal that had the least impact to the site.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission gives written concurrence to proceed with *de minimus* findings process and finds that the project is in the public interest as presented under Item 32 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting is in the public interest.

Chair Riddell thanked Mr. Merkel for his diligence in the project.

206-33) Vermilion Co. – Introduction of the Northern Riffleshell Mussel to Jordan Creek of the North Fork Nature Preserve

This agenda item was deferred.

206-34) Election of Officers – INPC Nominating Committee Report

Commissioner Flemal stated that the nominating Committee was pleased to offer in nomination the following individuals: for Chair, Commissioner Rosenthal; Vice-Chair, Commissioner Flemal; and for Secretary, Commissioner Payne.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following Commissioners be elected as Officers of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Lauren Rosenthal as Chair, Ron Flemal as Vice-Chair, and Mare Payne as Secretary.

Chair Rosenthal presented Commissioner Riddell with a framed print selected from the INPC's photo contest entries. She thanked Commissioner Riddell for her service as Chair.

Commissioner Riddell thanked everyone for the print. She stated it has been an honor to serve the Commission, and she looked forward to continuing to do so.

206-35) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Stewardship Proposals

Bob Szafoni stated that at the May, 2010 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the acquisition and natural areas defense components of the NAAF. The third and final component of that was the stewardship component. He stated that through the work of Deborah Stone, Randy Heidorn, and Don McFall, funds were secured for stewardship for FY2011 in the amount of \$243,000. This amount will be split between three programs – Stewardship Site Proposals (\$168,000); Stewardship Discretionary (\$70,000); and Volunteer Stewardship Network (\$5,000). Mr. Szafoni gave a brief overview of each program.

Mr. Szafoni stated that 53 proposals, totaling approximately \$600,000, were received. The demand for stewardship has been much greater than the resources available. Approximately 75-80 percent of the proposals addressed invasive plant issues and exotic issues. Other requests were for other stewardship actions such as native vegetation plantings, prescribed burns, and other site integrity actions that addressed erosion, boundary fencing, and trash removal. This year ten projects were funded on IDNR lands and five projects on non-IDNR lands. There was an obligation to make matches of federal money, and in some cases local money, to double the size of the projects. Of the \$168,000 in stewardship money that was allocated to on the ground projects, almost \$130,000 was being matched dollar for dollar by either federal or local units of

government. The Commissioners were provided with a list of the 15 projects.

Funded NAAF Projects	Region	County	Activity	Amount
<i>Harlem Hills NP</i>	1	Winnebago	Exotic species control	\$9,500
Massasauga Prairie NP	1	Warren	Prescribed fire	\$15,000
<i>Pine Rock NP</i>	1	Ogle	Prairie planting	\$10,000
<i>Wolf Road Prairie NP</i>	2	Cook	Invasive species control	\$5,000
<i>IL Beach NP</i>	2	Lake	Exotic species control	\$20,000
Superior St Prairie LWR	2	Cook	Invasive & exotic species control	\$3,000
Bonnie's Prairie NP	3	Iroquois	Invasive & exotic species control	\$4,000
<i>Grubb Hollow NP</i>	4	Pike	Invasive & exotic species control	\$9,000
<i>Revis Hill Prairie NP</i>	4	Mason	Invasive species control	\$5,000
<i>McAdams Peak LWR</i>	4	Jersey	Invasive species control	\$10,000
Walden West LWR	4	Mason	Prescribed fire	\$2,000
Matanzas Prairie NP	4	Mason	Invasive & exotic species control	\$12,000
Lost Creek LWR	5	Clinton	Invasive species control	\$5,000
<i>Cache River LWR</i>	5	Johnson/Pulaski	Invasive species control	\$28,500
<i>Prairie Ridge LWR</i>	5	Jasper	Invasive & exotic species control	\$30,000

Italics - Projects w/ matching funds (\$127,000)

TOTAL= \$168,000

Deborah Stone stated that this year the IDNR releases \$400,000 out of that NAAF lump for land purchase. The remainder was mostly in the defense category which was presented at the May, 2010 INPC meeting.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2011 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund stewardship expenditures as presented under Item 35 of the Agenda for the 206th Meeting.

(Resolution 2117)

206-36) Public Comment Period

Steven Byers stated that he would like to speak on the subject of Friends of Hack-ma-tack. He stated that he wanted to announce that the US Fish and Wildlife Service was conducting public meetings regarding the proposed refuge at the McHenry County Government Center on October 12, 2010, and at the MCCD Lost Valley Visitor Center on October 13, 2010. There will be two public meetings in Wisconsin that following week.

Commissioner Dann asked that Mr. Byers report the results of those meetings to the Commission.

Chair Rosenthal acknowledged the presence of Barbara Fell. She stated that Mrs. Fell has been a great leader in preservation, and she thanked Mrs. Fell for spending the day with the Commission.

Mrs. Fell stated that many of the sites discussed today were sites that were discussed even before there was a Nature Preserves Commission. Apple River Canyon was one of the first sites that her husband surveyed. She stated that it is wonderful to see the sites dedicated.

206-37) Other Business

Chair Rosenthal stated that there were four sets of minutes regarding land acquisition from closed meetings of the Commission included in the Commissioners' packets. The meeting dates were August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009. These meetings were closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase of real property. Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act provides that public bodies, "shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review minutes of all closed sessions. At such meetings, a determination shall be made and reported in an open session that: 1. the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or 2. that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection."

Randy Heidorn stated that the closed session minutes relate to land acquisition, and they have been reviewed by the IDNR Realty Division staff. It was determined that several sites discussed in the closed meeting were still active projects, and it was the recommendation of the IDNR that all four sets of the closed session meeting minutes remain closed.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Riddell, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the closed session minutes from the August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009, meetings will remain confidential but will be reviewed semi-annually to ascertain the need to be kept confidential.

(Resolution 2118)

206-38) Adjournment

It was moved by Riddell, seconded by Covington, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217/785-8686

EXHIBIT A



**Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission**

memorandum

To: Commissioners
From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Date: September 17, 2010
Subject: Staff Report for the 206th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

- A. Randy Heidorn:
 - 1. Worked with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) staff to track, develop and implement FY2011 and FY2011 budgets.
 - 2. Reviewed and scored State Wildlife Grant proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 as a part of the IDNR-ORC leadership team.
- B. Jenny Skufca:
 - 1. Packed and moved the INPC Photographic Exhibition to the IDNR building for temporary storage and has been contacting INPC partners to arrange future display locations.
 - 2. Supported a mapping initiative to digitally update INPC site maps utilizing legal descriptions.
- C. INPC Springfield staff consolidated work space in cooperation with the IDNR to allow room for another State Agency to move into the IDNR Building.
- D. Steven Byers completed an office move to a new location.
- E. Bryan Eubanks and Mitch Lovgren completed their residency internships on August 13 and September 15, 2010 respectively. Mr. Eubanks began work for a private biological consulting firm. Mr. Lovgren is continuing his work on completing his Masters degree. These interns were supervised by Kim Roman and Tom Lerczak.
- F. Tom Lerczak began participation as a mentor in Bradley University's Research Internship program.
- G. Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals and nature preserve (NP) and land and water reserve (LWR) documents for the 206th INPC meeting and provided staff support concerning dedications and new procedures for registering LWRs.
- H. Debbie Newman worked with summer interns for several days on various landowner contact, stewardship activities, and monitoring projects on INPC sites.

II. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

- A. Staff participated in the following trainings: online ethics, hazardous materials, use of new programmatic timekeeping forms.
- B. Staff planned and staffed displays at the State Fair in Springfield. This included the production by Jenny Skufca of an INPC Illinois State Fair banner to promote the INPC Photographic Exhibition and the celebration of over 500 protected sites.
- C. The Salt Lick Point LWR Committee and the Quad City Natural Areas Guardians were both honored by the IDNR with the Volunteer of the Year Award at a State Fair presentation attended by Randy Heidorn, Angella Moorehouse, and Debbie Newman. Ms. Newman and Ms. Moorehouse respectively nominated these groups.
- D. Deborah Stone and Steven Byers represented the INPC at "Invitation to America's Great Outdoors Event," a public forum on parks, open space, and nature.
- E. Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca:
 - 1. Participated in a Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meeting.
 - 2. Attended presentation of hydrological data regarding Iroquois County State Wildlife Area LWR.
 - 3. Participated in monthly Natural Heritage/INPC/Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB) staff/planning meetings.
- F. Kelly Neal and Jenny Skufca participated in a three-day training on ArcGIS 9.x.
- G. Randy Heidorn:
 - 1. Represented the INPC at meetings of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team.
 - 2. Presented reports on INPC activities at the ESPB's quarterly meetings in May and August, 2010.

3. Continues to represent INPC interests on the Board of Director of the Natural Areas Association
 4. Drafted and submitted an article entitled "Reflections on the Natural Areas Conservation: Defining the Movement" to the Natural Areas News.
- H. Jenny Skufca:
1. Participated in meetings with the IDNR webmaster to update the INPC webpages.
 2. Represented the INPC at the IDNR's "Becoming an Outdoorswoman Program."
- I. John Nelson:
1. Instructed an "Oak Keepers" class as part of "Project Quercus" for The Land Conservancy of McHenry County.
 2. Attended a Yonder Prairie NP Stewardship Roundtable.
 3. Attended a Nachusa Open House for Resource Managers.
- J. Steven Byers:
1. Continued to serve as co-chair of Chicago Wilderness (CW) Natural Resources Management Team and represented the INPC for the CW Coordinating Group and CW Steering Committee by.
 - a. Attending a meeting for natural resource managers on the consequences of and suggestions for reducing impact of climate change on local plant and animal communities.
 - b. Giving a presentation for the CW report card (how well is CW doing with the implantation of the Biodiversity Recovery Plan).
 - c. Participating in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting sponsored by Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) and CW.
 - d. Reviewed and selected a restoration proposal for funding from the CW Natural Resource Management team.
 2. Conducted a tour of Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP for staff and residents.
 3. Participated in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) Partners for the Preserves Founding Meeting.
- K. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Attended the North American Prairie Conference on her own time and expense in Iowa and gave a presentation on impacts of cattle grazing on Bald Bluff Hill Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site. Moderated a panel discussion on the impacts of prescribed fire on insect populations. Participated in a symposium on the protection of pioneer cemetery natural areas.
 2. Participated in Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) local working group meetings in Hancock and Rock Island counties to develop conservation priorities for SWCD farm programs.
 3. Joined the IDNR Cultural Resource Coordinator and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency staff in a meeting with University of Illinois Press to discuss a proposal to write a field guide to pioneer cemeteries, to include information on the importance of cemetery NPs and natural vegetation to the preservation of pioneer cemeteries.
- L. Tom Lerczak:
1. Authored an article "The Missing Red-headed Woodpeckers of Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP," published in the Summer 2010 issue of Illinois Audubon magazine.
 2. Reviewed a draft promotional video for the Illinois River Country Trail and provided comments.
 3. Presented a talk:
 - a. Entitled "The Citizen Science of Birding" at the Elkhart Historical Society.
 - b. On Illinois prairies to the Mackinaw Gardening Club at Coon Hill Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL).
- M. Tom Lerczak and Mitch Lovgren attended an on-site meeting at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR with the main organizer of a new group called Friends of McNaughton Park.
- N. Mary Kay Solecki led an orchid walk at Orchid Hill NHL.
- O. Debbie Newman:
1. Gave a presentation on hill prairies to the Southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society.
 2. Co-presented a talk on exotic invasive species at the Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Nature Festival.
 3. Taught a class on prairies for Southwest Illinois Master Naturalists program.
 4. Attended the Southwest Illinois Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting.
- P. Bob Edgin:
1. Participated in a Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) webcast.
 2. Led a field trip at Lake Sara Flatwoods NHL for the Lake Sara Good Neighbors Association.
 3. Worked with the US Department of Agriculture staff to modify recommended list of trees to plant when replacing those damaged by Emerald Ash Borer.

- Q. Mitch Lovgren completed the prescribed fire burn boss certification.

III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. John Nelson:
1. Assisted IDNR with a plant survey of Boone Creek Fen INAI site.
 2. Mapped natural communities at four sites proposed for inclusion into the Illinois NPs System.
- B. Steven Byers coordinated access to Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP for the Illinois Natural History Survey and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct a count of plants at that site.
- C. Kim Roman coordinated an ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) survey in Kankakee Sands.
- D. Kim Roman and Bryan Eubanks assisted with a Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) survey at an INPC site in Area 3.
- E. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Assisted Augustana College in a Wildlife Preservation Fund research project documenting the statewide populations of prairie larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*, state-threatened) and collecting genetic material to determine differences in disjunct populations of this plant.
 2. Assisted in a research project to document populations of the rare stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligospermum*) found exclusively on hill prairies in far western Illinois.
 3. Collected data on several listed plant species found in western Illinois: blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*), Virginia bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*), American bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), slim-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias stenophylla*), and eastern prairie fringed orchid *Platanthera leucophaea*.
- F. Angella Moorehouse and Mitch Lovgren conducted a butterfly survey of Cass County sites.
- G. Tom Lerczak:
1. Engaged in follow-up contacts with INAI Update staff on the status of recommended sites.
 2. Attended a field evaluation of Sand Ridge State Forest INAI sites with IDNR staff.
- H. Mitch Lovgren:
1. Submitted four new Element of Occurrence Records (EOR) for threatened and endangered species.
 2. Conducted biological surveys for Illinois mud turtles (*Kinosternon flavescens spooneri*) at sites in Mason and Cass counties.
 3. Conducted a cover-board survey for herptiles at Culp Conservancy Woods LWR.
 4. Conducted a post burn woody vegetation survey at Spring Bay Fen NP with the District Heritage Biologist (DHB).
 5. Continued working with the DHB to update and document new EORs for Hennepin-Hopper Lake to seek expansion of Senachwine Seep INAI.
- I. Tom Lerczak and Mitch Lovgren:
1. Completed baseline plant inventories at the proposed buffer addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP and at Letcher Bottoms.
 2. Completed breeding bird surveys at Walden West LWR; the proposed buffer addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP and Letcher Bottoms.
 3. Collected GPS coordinates for a bird survey route on the US Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey.
 4. Attended a field evaluation of Sand Ridge State Forest INAI sites with IDNR staff.
- J. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Assisted in training volunteers to monitor Sangamon phlox (*Phlox pilosa* ssp. *Sangamonensis*).
 2. Conducted census of orchids and rare sedge at Orchid Hill NHL.
 3. Surveyed two potential natural areas in Edgar County with the landowner and Bob Edgin.
 4. Sampled woody vegetation with Eric Smith in response to wind throw in the forest at Allerton Park.
- K. Debbie Newman:
1. Developed a volunteer bird monitoring program for volunteers in Kaskaskia Large Forest block (on and near INPC sites), and coordinated education and data collection for the project.
 2. Conducted the annual breeding bird survey route for the USFWS.
- L. Debbie Newman and Mitch Lovgren conducted surveys for the timber rattlesnake at an INAI site in Area 7.
- M. Bob Edgin:
1. Coordinated landowner contacts with INAI Update staff .
 2. Conducted eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*), copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) and vegetation surveys at an INAI site in Area 8.

3. Documented previously unreported populations of the state-endangered tube beard tongue (*Penstemon tubaeiflorus*) at two LWRs.
 4. Documented previously unreported populations of the grass-leaved lily (*Stenotaphrum gramineum*) from one site each in Edwards and Wayne counties.
 5. Nominated three new sites for inclusion on the INAI and submitted boundary expansion of Chauncey Marsh Natural Area, all based on the presence of state-listed species.
 6. Conducted vegetation sampling at Beadles Barrens NP to determine effectiveness of management activities.
 7. Conducted census of royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) at five sites in Lawrence County.
- N. Judy Faulkner Dempsey arranged for INAI Update staff to evaluate Kerr Canyon in Union County.

IV. Protection Program:

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda of the 206th meeting.
- B. Debbie Reider coordinated final preparation of NHL documents for signature at the 206th meeting. The new NHLs are:
 1. Carroll T. Cox Forest – Crawford Co. – 91 acres (Edgin)
 2. Heather’s Hollow – Monroe Co. – 9.76 (Newman)
- C. John Nelson:
 1. Met with senior staff of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Illinois Chapter, to plan a land protection strategy for Nachusa Grasslands.
 2. Met with new private landowners to discuss benefits of NP dedication, and continued discussion with private landowners for possible land protection of property adjacent to White Pines State Park.
- D. Steven Byers:
 1. Gave presentations on the proposed Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge to the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) and Natural Areas Volunteers.
 2. Had landowner contact meetings with landowners in McHenry County and Kane County.
 3. Conducted a site visit with the Barrington Land Trust and had a follow-up discussion with Illinois Clean Energy regarding the value of land owned by the Trust.
 4. Led tour of Trout Park NP and Trout Park River’s Edge for the Elgin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Discussed protecting the site as a LWR, and followed up with input to the City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Master Plan update.
 5. Conducted discussions and participated in a site visit with Openlands staff regarding the opportunity to dedicate Lake Michigan Shoreline Preserve.
 6. Had ongoing discussions with the MCCD regarding opportunities to enroll District sites in the INPC System; sites include Alden Sedge Meadow, additions to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen NP, and additions to Elizabeth Lake NP.
 7. Had meetings with a consultant with Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie to secure protection of the adjacent 20-acre tract and to resolve the status of an 8-acre tract located adjacent to the site that received preliminary approval from the INPC for dedication.
 8. Met with staff of the MCCD regarding the proposed HUM prairies.
- E. Kim Roman met with the landowners of a property adjacent to Hooper Branch Savanna NP to discuss conservation options.
- F. Angella Moorehouse:
 1. Maintained landowner contact with owners of 36 sites enrolled in INPC programs.
 2. Contacted owners of six unprotected natural areas.
- G. Tom Lerczak:
 1. Co-authored, with Mitch Lovgren and Tim Kelley, a proposal for a buffer addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP that will be presented at a future meeting.
 2. Compiled information for a proposed LWR at Letcher Bottoms (Mackinaw River Natural Area).
 3. Established landowner contacts for 22 INAI sites, NPs, LWRs or NHLs.
- H. Debbie Newman contacted owners of two unprotected INAI sites.
- I. Bob Edgin:
 1. Contacted owners of two unprotected INAI sites.
 2. At the landowner’s request, evaluated four sites for suitability for inclusion in INPC programs.
- J. Mitch Lovgren:
 1. Met with nine landowners of INAI sites, NPs, LWRs, or NHLs.

2. Established GPS boundary photo-documentation points for four NPs.

V. Land Acquisition:

- A. Kim Roman and Bryan Eubanks assisted TNC with environmental assessments of tax-delinquent properties in the Kankakee Sands which were purchased at auction by TNC.
- B. Angella Moorehouse:
 1. Provided assistance to local agencies, NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) and volunteers attempting to acquire the eastern portion of Rocky Glen INAI site, Peoria County.
 2. Provided information and recommendations on a 1,000+ acre tract of land that was offered for sale to the IDNR which contains populations of the state-threatened blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*).
- C. Mary Kay Solecki assisted a private landowner in an effort to acquire land upstream of an INAI river section for conservation purposes.
- D. Debbie Newman:
 1. Worked on acquisition projects for three INAI sites totaling 530 acres in Monroe and St. Clair counties.
 2. Worked with conservation groups, conservation buyers, foundations, and landowners on acquisition projects for four INAI sites totaling 1,010 acres in Monroe and St. Clair counties.
 3. Judy Faulkner Dempsey carried out landowner contact meetings with the owner of an INAI site that is home of the second best population of the state-endangered Dusky salamander (*Desmognathus conanti*) in Illinois and coordinated discussions with a not-for profit conservation buyer.

VI. Defense Program:

- A. Jenny Skufca:
 1. Responded to eight reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 22 reviews for IDNR's consultation program.
 2. Provided information to Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) staff to prepare Class III Groundwater petitions for the three NPs, including Searls Park Prairie NP, Sand Ridge NP, and Yonder Prairie NP. Has preparing Class III Groundwater petition packets to be submitted to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for six NPs. Scanned or uploaded 14 designated Class III delineation documents and maps to the IDNR's Sharepoint website.
 3. Attended a Wolf Road Prairie NP meeting with staff of FPDCC, IDNR's Assistant Director John Rogner, Steven Byers and consultants related to Westchester's proposal to upgrade water and add a sanitary sewer line down Hickory Lane within the site.
 4. Drafted an informational memo regarding impacts related to the proposed introduction of exotic invasive grass (*Miscanthus* spp.) near, or within the watersheds of INPC sites.
 5. Visited Area 7 with Debbie Newman to review past, current, or potential threats to sites.
- B. Steven Byers met with representatives of Illinois Tollway regarding surface hydrology issues at Trout Park NP stemming from the intersection of I-90 and Illinois Route 25.
- C. Angella Moorehouse visited a potential soil source to determine whether the soil was free of invasive seed and thus could be used by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in the Illinois Route 5 culvert replacement project at Black Hawk Forest NP.
- D. Tom Lerczak:
 1. Photo-documented evidence of excessive herbicide spraying of road right-of-way (ROW) at McMaster Woods NP. Investigations are in the initial phase.
 2. Evidence of horses in Henry Allan Gleason NP was observed the IDNR Site Superintendent. Corrective actions (repair of fence) were taken.
- E. Mary Kay Solecki met with University of Illinois researchers, staff, and IDNR staff to mitigate possible impacts of planting (*Miscanthus* spp.) research plots at or near several natural areas.
- F. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
 1. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Jenny Skufca, John Nelson, Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt is being stored on property located immediately south of Bluff Spring Fen NP, owned by Bluff City Materials (BCM).
 - b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.

- c. Status: New. An on-site discussion between John Nelson and Matt Vondra of BCM took place on August 11, 2010. Subsequent to that meeting, the INPC sent a letter of objection to BCM. Another meeting occurred on-site on September 7, 2010 to discuss the removal of the salt which included the landowner, FPDCC and INPC staff. The ISGS is deploying additional monitoring equipment to help document changes in water chemistry that may be attributable to the salt storage. On September 14, 2010, Randy Heidorn, Jenny Skufca and a representative of the IDNR Legal Counsel met with Mike Vondra. Mr. Vondra agreed to develop alternate plans at the current site and at another site on his property to contain the salt. The alternate plans will be presented to the INPC in October, 2010.
2. **Gladstone Fen NP, McHenry County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Proposed residential subdivisions on land adjacent to the NP involving the Vemuri Development and the Curtis Development.
 - b. Threat: Close proximity of developments to the NP could have impacts to the groundwater resource that sustains the high-quality fen wetland and sedge meadow at Gladstone Fen NP. The Vemuri Development property is 58 acres and is currently zoned for seven home parcels. The subdivision plan calls for 13 home sites with a conservation area adjoining the NP. The Curtis Development property is 77.5 acres with a proposed estate zoning for 5+ acres per home site.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. Scientists of the ISGS released a new report entitled “Selected Scientific and Technical Information about Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve.” This report included the estimated groundwater contribution area for Gladstone Fen.

The proposed Vemuri Development was not within the contribution area. Recommendations based on the report include protection of a conservation area in the northwest portion of the property that includes wetlands contiguous with Gladstone Fen and a requirement that all private wells be screened in the deep dolomitic strata that is water bearing strata not in contact with the fen. John Nelson testified at a meeting of the Bull Valley Village Zoning Board on May 10, 2010. The Village granted preliminary approval. INPC staff will continue to provide advice regarding the development plan and to work with the Vemuri family to plan a conservation area as part of the development.

The proposed Curtis Development is within the contribution area. According to a letter (dated June 30, 2010), it is the opinion of the ISGS scientists that “although the proposed development is within the groundwater contribution area for the preserve, the only aquifer underlying the development that may provide groundwater to the preserve is aquifer A2, which is overlain by a thick layer of clay-rich glacial till that likely prevents any significant flow to aquifer A2 from land surface or aquifer A1. Therefore, the presence of septic fields on the development are not expected to impact the quality of water in aquifer A2 or the preserve.” The ISGS scientists did recommend all private wells at this location be screened in the deep underlying bedrock layer. John Nelson testified at a joint meeting of the Bull Valley Zoning Board and Planning Commission on April 19, 2010. At that time, the technical report was not yet available, so concerns were raised as to potential for groundwater impacts. The INPC has subsequently met with Mr. Curtis’ engineer and has shared the technical report with all concerned parties. Staff will continue to provide recommendations as part of the Village’s review process.
3. **Stone Bridge Reserve LWR, Winnebago County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner of the LWR, Roscoe Township, installed an underground electric line through the LWR.
 - b. Threat: This is an unauthorized use that caused damage to the natural area, including potential damage to a state-listed species.
 - c. Status: Resolved. No restoration plan or procedural agreement was received by INPC as requested. An on-site meeting was held with Roscoe Township, INPC, and NLI representatives on August 26, 2010 to discuss mitigation and future procedures for work within the LWR boundary. The Roscoe Township Supervisor agreed to follow the Administrative Rules for LWRs and to notify all easement holders on any future work within the LWR.
4. **Hybernia NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The INPC was recently notified of an intrusion by private landowner into the NP.
 - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impacts to the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. Volunteer steward, Dr. Robert Stanley, is working with the Hybernia Homeowners’ Association to address the intrusion. INPC staff will document the intrusion.
5. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**

- a. Issue: IDOT intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction to include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
 - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass which threatens long-term viability of federally-threatened orchid.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC was staff asked to submit a letter to IDOT District 1 Engineer, Peter Harmet, requesting that IDOT purchase the NP fee-title or establish an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with landowner that allows IDOT access of site for monitoring and management. That letter was submitted. INPC staff continues to coordinate access to the site with the landowner.
6. **Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) has developed a drainage plan for the Little Calumet River watershed.
 - b. Threat: The plan could unintentionally inundate portions of Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with Dr. Ron Panzer and Karl Gnaedinger to prepare letters to the MWRDGC requesting the removal of the drainage projects adjacent to Gensburg-Markham Prairie from their planning docket. Dr. Panzer documented short-term flooding (some water on streets gone within eight hours) in the area being proposed for the drainage plan (levee and pumping station).
7. **Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie (conferred preliminary approval for NP dedication at 204th Meeting), Lake County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: Contaminant exiting I-90 and entering adjacent wetland.
 - b. Threat: Indirect impact to the water quality (sedimentation, chlorides, contaminants) impacting population of federally-listed, state-endangered eastern prairie fringed orchid and the proposed NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The Fields of Cambridge Homeowners' Association representative has met with the Illinois Tollway Authority. INPC staff has prepared a letter of support noting ecological value of the site and the need for long-term management to reduce threats caused by sedimentation and contaminants originating from the tollway.
8. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to the NP flora and fauna. Dredged sediment inundated 1.17 acres of the NP wetland with 4-6" of silt. Some silt has been vacuumed off of the site. The landowner, LCFPD, is concerned that any further removal will be more damaging than restorative. No long term plan to manage extended impacts of remobilization of sediment has been developed.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC submitted a letter to the Knollwood Golf Club on August 27, 2010 enumerating the impacts, the violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA), and a recommendation to engage in mitigation strategies with the potential referral to the Illinois Attorney General or the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.
9. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR by unknown persons.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18 inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police are conducting an investigation in concert with IDNR Legal Counsel and assessing potential for referral to Kankakee County State's Attorney Office or Illinois Attorney General's Office.
10. **Hickory Creek Barrens NP, Will County - Kim Roman**
 - a. Issue: In 2006, staff discovered approximately three acres of the NP was buried/covered with sediment that originated from an adjacent development site due to a lack of soil erosion controls.
 - b. Threat: Non-native soils cover the forest floor, seep, and ravine bottoms and is expected to affect the native vegetation. Removal of the sediment was believed to be more damaging than allowing the silt to remain.
 - c. Status: Resolved. After referral to the Illinois Attorney General's Office for violations to the INAPA, the two defendants of the complaint for injunction, InSite Real Estate and Larjan Enterprises, provided the landowner, the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) \$300,000 to fund management and restoration activities within the unit of the NP impacted by the

sedimentation. An INPC-approved management/restoration plan will be implemented over the next five years.

11. **Goodenow Grove NP, Will County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: IDOT sound wall to be installed along I-394 along the NP boundary.
 - b. Threat: The IDOT right-of-way is adjacent to approximately 100 high-quality forest trees and will likely cause tree mortality. The sound wall will also inhibit management of the site by eliminating access and diminishing safety escape routes.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC and FPDWC (landowner) staff are in consultation with IDOT regarding alternatives.
12. **Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca, Kelly Neal**
 - a. Issue: Enbridge pipeline break near the NP boundary.
 - b. Threat: Potential for crude oil to contaminate surface water and groundwater in the NP, owned by the FPDWC, affecting a diversity of flora and fauna, including numerous federally-listed and state-listed species.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with the FPDWC, IEPA, IDNR, and ISGS staff to monitor the oil's movement and document any adverse modifications.
13. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered an encroachment within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and large graded area leading to a neighbor's property.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. An on-site meeting was held with landowner, INPC staff, and neighboring landowner's farm manager on May 28, 2010 to discuss drainage issues, damage, and mitigation. Due to farm manager's uncooperativeness, the threat was referred to IDNR's Conservation Police. A report is currently under review by the McDonough County State's Attorney's Office.
14. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP, approximately 17 feet from the roadway.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora and fauna in the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. A meeting was held with landowner, INPC staff, McDonough County Power Cooperative and their herbicide contractor, Spoon River Power Cooperative, on August 24, 2010. All parties agreed that the herbicide had not been used cautiously. The INPC will submit a letter to the responsible Power Cooperatives documenting the damage, outlining the violations to the INAPA, and suggesting mitigation strategies. Further, contact has been made with the Illinois Association of Electric Cooperatives to engage communication among the Coops with the INPC to enhance awareness and sensitivity to protected sites.
15. **Meredosia Hill Prairie NP, Morgan County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Proposed new powerline poles adjacent to the NP boundary.
 - b. Threat: Proposed location appears to encroach within the NP boundary.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. On May 19, 2010, INPC staff met on-site with Matt Clayton of Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative to discuss placement of new powerline poles on the road ROW along the NP boundary. The Cooperative was able to provide Morgan County highway ROW specifications showing that poles will be placed within the ROW. Concerns remain regarding one proposed pole that appears to lie over the ROW boundary. INPC staff is pursuing a resolution.
16. **Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR, Tazewell County – Tom Lerczak**
 - a. Issue: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) funded boundary survey identified multiple encroachments into the LWR by neighbors.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized boundary intrusions.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. A site visit was made by INPC staff and the landowner (Pekin Park District) on May 28, 2010 to document the encroachments and plan for corrective actions.
17. **Cooper Park Wetlands LWR, Tazewell County – Tom Lerczak**
 - a. Issue: Boundary encroachment identified by INPC staff.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion of fill into the LWR to expand a neighbor's parking/storage.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. On August 9, 2010, INPC staff began investigations and communications with the LWR landowner, Fon du Lac Park District, regarding the August 8, 2010 photo-documented boundary encroachments.
18. **Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR, Randolph County – Debbie Newman**
 - a. Issue: Unknown persons have ridden ATVs all over the site below the hill prairie.

- b. Threat: ATV damage throughout the site.
 - c. Status: Resolved. INPC staff is working with landowner's tenant farmer and the Prairie du Rocher Police to eliminate the activity. A gate has been installed, and no further ATV use has occurred.
- 19. **Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Water drainage into the underground quarry and storage businesses which lie beneath the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Solutions proposed by the landowner, Village of Valmeyer, include diverting water on the surface within the LWR using small dams, piping, and hole-filling. Concern that the earthwork would damage the LWR and threaten the state-listed species found there.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. A project was approved at the 205th meeting of the INPC on May 4, 2010. Two of the three repairs authorized have been completed. The third repair will be done in September, 2010.
- 20. **DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: A neighbor to the LWR had survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR, claiming an additional 30-50' for his property.
 - b. Threat: The neighbor's survey contradicts the LWR landowner's previous survey suggesting encroachment into the LWR.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. A letter was submitted to the LWR neighbor on August 30, 2010, requesting a copy of his survey; and if discrepancies are found, bring the surveyors together. No response has been received.
- 21. **Stemler Cave NP, Monroe County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Maintenance of a powerline that goes across the top of the NP sinkhole.
 - b. Threat: Maintenance is causing some vegetation issues, including destructive cutting and spreading of non-native, invasive plants.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff met with the Monroe County Electric Coop on June 9, 2010 to determine alternatives. After INPC staff consulted with the NP landowners regarding alternatives, it was agreed on August 31, 2010 that the Electric Coop will endeavor to acquire the necessary easements from two neighboring landowners and move the powerline off of the NP.
- 22. **Storment Hauss NP, Monroe County – Debbie Newman**
 - a. Issue: Unknown person dumped barrels and trash into the creek in the NP along the boundary and county road.
 - b. Threat: Introduction of material into the NP.
 - c. Status: Resolved. The NP landowner contacted the County, who then removed the material. INPC staff will be visiting the site and posting additional signs at the site.
- 23. **Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Fayette County – Bob Edgin, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: A neighbor was mowing a portion of the NP.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion and direct impact to the NP.
 - c. Status: Resolved. A charge was filed by the IDNR's Conservation Police Officer with the Fayette County State's Attorney's Office. INPC staff contacted the State's Attorney to further clarify the violations under the INAPA. The neighbor received a fine and a warning to cease and desist any further activity within the NP boundary.

VII. Stewardship Program:

- A. Kim Roman and Bryan Eubanks assisted with the Asian Carp operation in Chicago.
- B. Randy Heidorn and Debbie Reider continued to assist in the coordination of the new Illinois Prescribed Burning Act. Activities included working with the IDNR to trouble shoot and review applications for certification of Prescribed Burn Managers and setting up the first meeting of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board meeting which will be held on September 28, 2010 in Springfield. The first certificates and ID cards were distributed in the second week of September, 2010.
- C. Tom Lerczak:
 - 1. Acted as burn boss during Mitch Lovgren's burn boss apprenticeship and provided evaluations for his application.
 - 2. Coordinated the FY2010 sign order (various INPC signs and specialty restriction signs).
 - 3. Assisted with delivery of herbicide to INPC staff and to two landowners with properties enrolled in INPC programs.
- D. Debbie Newman developed a bush honeysuckle treatment guideline sheet for landowners.

- E. Stewardship Planning:
1. Kelly Neal:
 - a. Reviewed 25 management schedules, five unscheduled management activities, and four management related CERPs at INPC sites.
 - b. Worked with TNC's Volunteer Coordinator and Debbie Reider to purchase tools for volunteer use in stewardship activities.
 2. John Nelson:
 - a. Provided management advice to landowners of the following sites: Lee Miglin Buffer Addition to Boone Creek Fen NP, Searls Park Prairie NP, Kinnikinnick Creek NP, Freeport Prairie NP, and Yonder Prairie NP.
 3. Steven Byers:
 - a. Hosted meeting with the Salt Creek Greenway Association: update on short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities for stewardship of Wolf Road Prairie NP.
 - b. Met with landowners of Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP to discuss management needs for the site.
 - c. Updated the five-year management goals and schedule for Bluff Spring Fen NP for the FPDCC.
 - d. Secured funding with the IDNR for stewardship at Wolf Road Prairie NP.
 4. Kim Roman:
 - a. Conducted an annual meeting with the FPDWC to review status/activities/management issues of all 14 sites enrolled as NPs or LWRs.
 - b. Reviewed a \$1.5 million restoration plan with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the FPDCC for Burnham Prairie NP.
 5. Angella Moorehouse:
 - a. Met with Quad Cities Natural Areas Guardians to discuss assigning site stewards to address management and protection issues at Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP.
 - b. Met with staff from the Interstate Resource Conservation and Development and Rock Island County SWCD to seek federal grant funding for stewardship projects on NPs and natural areas in Rock Island County. A grant was awarded for \$120,500 from the US Forest Service to reduce fuel loads within the forest communities at Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairie NP.
 - c. Coordinated with IDNR Office of Resource Conservation staff, Prairie Rivers Network, and local partners to develop long-term plans for the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area to achieve goals set by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.
 6. Tom Lerczak:
 - a. Provided a three-year summary and evaluation of management activities at Walden West LWR to the landowner.
 - b. Completed draft (landowner approval pending) management plan updates for Black Partridge Park Woods LWR, Walden West LWR, Cooper Park Wetlands LWR, and Anderson Prairie LWR.
 7. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - a. Participated in a Vermilion River Conservation Opportunity Area meeting.
 - b. Met with the owner of an endangered phlox site and planned monitoring and restoration of the rare wildflower.
 - c. Updated management schedules for Edgewood Farm LWR and Warbler Woods NP.
 8. Debbie Newman wrote an updated management plan for one site.
 9. Bob Edgin attended a joint agency meeting at IDOT office in Effingham regarding management of 12-mile Prairie.
 10. Judy Faulkner Dempsey attended a meeting with Lake Murphysboro site staff, managers of Lovets Pond NP and the Gene Korando Addition to Lovets Pond NP. Assisted with sign and interpretive information for IDOT and the creation a parking pull-off on State Route 3 which overlooks the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond NP.
- F. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an EPA 319 Grant, the NAAF, CW Grants and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase,

exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:

1. Area 1 (Nelson): Freeport Prairie NP, Kinnikinnick Creek NP, Pine Rock NP, and eight NP sites in the Boone Creek Watershed.
 2. Area 2 (Byers): three sites.
 3. Area 3 (Kim Roman) Contracted and supervised: Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, the proposed Hildy Prairie NP, and Superior Street Prairie LWR.
 4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Brownlee Cemetery Prairie NP, Spring Grove Cemetery Prairie NP, Root Cemetery Savanna NP, Geissler Savanna LWR, Cecil White Prairie LWR, Stony Hills NP, Jamar Haven LWR, Harper's Woods NP, and Hickory Hills Savanna potential natural area (Siloam Springs).
 5. Area 5 (Lerczak and Lovgren): Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP, Wiegand Prairie NHL, Hopewell Hill Prairies NP, Oak Bluff Savanna NP, Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR, Crevecoeur NP, Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR, McCune Sand Prairie LWR, Black Partridge Park Woods LWR and Illinois River Sand Areas LWR, and submitted five new stewardship proposals.
 6. Area 6 (Solecki): Horseshoe Bottom NP, Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP, and Baber Woods NP and, Kinney's Ford Seep LWR.
 7. Area 7 (Newman): 11 INPC sites and wrote five updated work orders for Hill Prairie SWG projects.
 8. Area 8 (Edgin): Beadles Barrens NP, Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, and Prairie Ridge State Natural Area LWR.
 9. Area 9 (Faulkner Dempsey): Ren-Dill Shale Glade NP, Degognia Canyon LWR, and Faulkner-Franke Pioneer Railroad Prairie NP, one new proposal stewardship submitted.
- G. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1(Nelson): Boone Creek Fen NP, Freeport Prairie NP, Kinnikinnick Creek NP, Brookville Lutheran Cemetery Prairie NP, and Searls Park Prairie NP.
 2. Area 2 (Byers): Wolf Road Prairie NP, Trout Park NP, Trout Park River's Edge, and Forested Fen.
 3. Area 3 (Roman and Eubank):Voight –Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Butterfield Creek Headwaters LWR, Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Long Run Seep NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Hooper Branch Savanna NP, Hildy Prairie NHL, Superior Street Prairie LWR, Illinois Beach NP, Momence Wetlands NP, and Green River State Wildlife Area.
 4. Area 5 (Lerczak and Lovgren): Walden West LWR, Manito Prairie NP, Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP, Tomlin Timber NP, Long Branch Sand Prairie NP, Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP, Miller-Anderson Woods NP, Mettler Woods NP, Wier Hill Prairie NP, and site surveillance at 26 NPs, LWRs and NHLs
 5. Area 6 (Solecki): Warbler Woods NP, Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna NP, Embarras Bluffs NHL, Horseshoe Bottom NP, Kickapoo State Park and several INAI sites managed by Grand Prairie Friends.
 6. Area 7 (Newman): DesPain Wetlands LWR, Prairie du Rocher Herp Area INAI site, Horse Creek Glade NHL, Two Branch Peace Prairie LWR, Salt Lick Point LWR, and conducted site surveillance and threatened and endangered species monitoring on 11 sites.
 7. Area 8 (Edgin): Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Horn Prairie Grove LWR, Chauncey Marsh NP, and Beall Woods NP, Carroll T. Cox Forest NHL, Lost Creek Marsh NP and LWR, Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow NHL, Padgett Brothers Sweet Gum Woods LWR, Lake Sara Flatwoods NHL, Rend Lake and Flag Pond INAI sites including site surveillance.

EXHIBIT B

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
at the 206th meeting, September 21, 2010**

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update

The INAI Update contract has been extended for another full field season. Originally scheduled to terminate at the end of October, the contract has been extended through October, 2011. The extension was done at no additional cost to the state from a combination of a re-budget within the contract and personal services overages accrued by the University of Illinois. During the screening phase for the 2010 field season, the team identified 1621 potential natural area sites. A total of 764 sites were rejected after further surveys. Landowner contact for permission to survey private property was less productive this year, possibly due to a change in public perception. Of the sites where landowner contact was successful, another 187 were rejected after initial ground surveys. A large pool of potential sites remain which require final field surveys for inclusion on the INAI. This is consistent with the expectations at the conception of the project. Final results will not be immediately known for the 2010 field season as the data is prepared, analyzed and quality controlled.

Re-evaluations of existing Category I (high quality natural communities) INAI sites which was started last year, continued this summer. Illinois Beach, the largest and most complex natural area in the state, was re-sampled in August. Much of the ground work such as mapping and community verification was completed prior to the field work and seven natural communities were re-sampled. The Illinois Beach natural area appears to be suffering from an increase in exotic species similar to most natural communities within the state but remains very high quality with the exception of marsh communities. One outcome of the Category I re-survey is that we may no longer have any high quality marsh communities remaining in the state. These communities appear to be greatly impacted from offsite hydrological connections.

Dr. Deanna Glosser with Environmental Planning Solutions is close to completing the development of The Strategic Natural Areas Preservation Plan.

2010 State Wildlife Grants

The 2010 State Wildlife Grants (SWG), funded by US Fish and Wildlife, were awarded in July. Twelve projects totaling about \$2,900,000 will be funded including a project to recruit and train firefighters to assist with prescribed burning of natural areas in southern Illinois, acquisition of additions to Hanover Bluff and Stemler Cave Woods state natural areas and a \$975,000 natural area stewardship grant.

Wildlife Preservation Fund Grants

This years Wildlife Preservation Fund grant awards were approved by Director Miller in August. Thirty four projects will be funded including invasive species early detection and control, projects to increase public awareness of the problem of invasive species and two natural area summer internships in east central Illinois. A BioBlitz at nature preserves and reserves on the Mississippi River bluffs in southwestern Illinois and an insect survey of preserves and reserves in southeastern Illinois were also funded. The Wildlife Preservation Fund is now in its 27th year. The Fund has generated about \$175,000 in donations so far this year.

EXHIBIT C



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report for the September 21, 2010

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting
Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 146th and 147th meetings on May 14 and August 13, 2010, respectively. Board actions and other items from those meetings included:

1. ESBP Member Appointments

Since the last Commission meeting, one new member was appointed to the Board; Ms. Laurel Ross. Ms. Ross fills a vacancy created when Ms. Marilyn Campbell chose not to seek reappointment in May of 2010. Additionally, a reappointment was confirmed for Mr. John Clemetsen. The Board currently has full membership.

2. ESPB Budget

A budget of \$118,000 was approved for and appropriated to the Board as a line item in the IDNR's FY2011 Budget. This is the first time since 2001 that the Board has received an appropriated budget and the Board is greatly appreciative to IDNR Director Miller and Governor Quinn for their support. The FY2011 budget will fund one staff position, that of the Executive Director, and limited Board member travel expenses. The Board's Director, Ms. Mankowski, is currently employed via an IDNR contract with the Illinois Natural History Survey/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Board is working with IDNR to hire an Executive Director that will be employed directly by the Board.

3. Meetings and Publications

Ms. Mankowski completed the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board Biennial Report for July 2008 – June 2010* and it was approved by the Board at the 147th meeting held August 13, 2010. The report is posted at the "Publications" link on the Board's webpage at <http://dnr.state.il.us/espb/index.htm>.

4. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Served as the Logistics Section Deputy Chief in the IDNR-led May 2010 Asian Carp Response Project on the Little Calumet River.
- Attended three meetings and continues participating in an IDNR Incident Command System Training Committee.
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1). The Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Team (Anne Mankowski, ESPB; Dr. Jeff Walk, INHS/UIUC; Terry Esker and Maggie Cole, DNR; and Mark Alessi, INHS/UIUC) completed the final draft recovery plan that is now being reviewed by DNR ORC Director Dr. Jim Herkert and will go to the ESPB for approval at the Board's 148th meeting to be held November 12, 2010.
- Completed proposed amendments to the IL E&T Animal List Administrative Rule (Part 1010) to correct listing and typographic errors; mudpuppy and black-billed cuckoo from endangered to threatened, and a few typographic corrections. The corrected Ad Rule became official August 20, 2010.

- Worked with IDNR Natural Heritage staff, Don McFall and Bob Szafoni, to develop a proposal pursuant to the *ESPB Policy on Translocation of Endangered and Threatened Animal Species* as part of a federal recovery project for the translocation of Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) specimens into stream reaches of the Vermilion River drainage in Illinois.
- Reviewed and provided comment on six IDNR incidental take conservation plans and/or authorizations during the last quarter.
- Fielded and referred 25 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 45 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

5. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens* – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains.
- Ms. Mankowski participated in a conference call for planning of the 2010 USFWS Region 3 and State endangered and threatened species coordinators meeting.
- Ms. Mankowski, working with the Board's ESTACs and Tara Kieninger, IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, provided data to the USFWS in response to information requests for several species including *Calopogon oklahomensis* (Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid, IL E, proposed for Federal listing), *Lampsilis higginsii* (Higgins eye, IL E, Fed E), *Discus macclintocki* (Iowa Pleistocene Snail, IL E, Fed E), and *Cirsium pitcheri* (Pitcher's thistle, IL T, Fed T).

6. Field Work

Ms. Mankowski spent two days working with Natural Heritage Biologists in Region 5 to monitor and place common barn owl (*Tyto alba*) boxes at over 20 locations. This work supports the planning and implementation of the IDNR USFWS SWG project (T-35-P-1) *Recovery of the Illinois Barn Owl (Tyto alba)*, for which Ms. Mankowski is the project manager.

7. 148th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The 148th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on November 12, 2010 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.